

City and County Borough of Lincoln



ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year

1941

By

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

"CHRONICLE" PRINTING WORKS
LINCOLN.

City Health Department,
Lincoln,
August, 1942.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health of the City during 1941.

This is my twelfth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health.

The Report is in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Circular 2604 and on account of the need for strict economy and the increased work on the Department is in the nature of an interim report only.

It is pleasing to report that the general nutritional condition of the school children did not show any deterioration as compared with the previous years but all measures that would assist in keeping up the physical condition of the child population should be maintained.

An intensive propaganda campaign was pursued during the year to bring to the notice of parents the importance and necessity of having their children protected against Diphtheria. The total number immunised during the year was 6,496 but there is still a large number of children between one and fifteen years of age who should be protected against Diphtheria and efforts should be continued to urge the parents to have their children immunised without delay. I feel that this is essential in the interests of the health of the children in Lincoln and the nation's health as a whole.

In post-war planning the provision of additional and more up-to-date hospital accommodation should be borne in mind and efforts should be continued to provide an additional number of beds for maternity cases.

There was a large number of evacuees in the City and all the facilities provided by the Health Services were available to them in the same manner as to persons normally resident in Lincoln.

The statistical returns and vital statistics compare favourably with the previous year.

The supervision of food and the cleanliness in the preparation and distribution of food for human consumption continued to receive attention. There were no cases of food poisoning during the year.

During the year a great deal of the time of your Medical Officer of Health and other staff was of necessity occupied by the Emergency Hospital and Casualty Services.

I am glad to state that full activities of the Health Services were maintained during 1941.

In conclusion I wish to thank all Members of the Council for their keen interest in the various problems put before them in connection with the health of the City, and I take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the good work accomplished by all the Staffs engaged in carrying out the work of the Health Services.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

M. L. BERY,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(1) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory and the Laboratory at the Public Health Department continued to be available during the year 1941.

The provision of an adequate pathological laboratory in the City is being given consideration.

(2) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Two motor ambulances at the City Hospital continued to be available during the year for infectious disease and tuberculous cases.

The two motor ambulances which used to be stationed at the Police Station were transferred to the Civil Defence Services during September, 1941, and were available for other cases.

(3) NURSING IN THE HOME.

The arrangements with the Lincoln District Nursing Association for the nursing of the patients in their homes were on similar lines as in the previous year.

No special nurses were employed for the nursing of infectious cases in the home.

(4) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MEDICAL OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

The scheme for the provision of domiciliary medical relief, under which the patient has free choice of doctor, was continued during the year.

(5) HOSPITALS.

I. Provided by the Local Authority.

The following four hospitals were available during the year and the annual admissions in each were as follows :—

<i>Hospital.</i>	<i>Admissions during 1941.</i>
City Hospital and Sanatorium ..	349
City Maternity Home	192
Burton Road Institution ..	891
Joint Smallpox Hospital	Nil.

In post war planning the provision of additional and more up-to-date hospital accommodation should be borne in mind.

II. Hospitals not wholly subsidised by the Local Authority.

County Hospital.

This is a voluntary general hospital which deals with patients from the City and the neighbouring County area.

The arrangements for dealing with Service Cases and Air Raid Casualties in Hospitals was under the direction of the Ministry of Health and the Council is aware of the various steps that have been taken to increase the bed accommodation.

(6) MEDICAL CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

It is pleasing to report that all the medical clinics and treatment centres, as given in my report of 1938, were available during 1941 and were of great assistance in looking after the health of Lincoln citizens.

These were available to the evacuees in the same manner as to the local population.

VITAL STATISTICS.

MARRIAGES.

There were 674 marriages solemnised as compared with 847 in the previous year.

BIRTHS.

The live birth rate for the City during the year was 14.6 as compared with 14.1 in the previous year and 14.2 for England and Wales.

The still birth rate was 0.53 as compared with 0.59 in the previous year and 0.51 for England and Wales.

DEATHS.

The death rate for the City during the year was 12.9 as compared with 14.6 in the previous year and 12.9 for England and Wales.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The infant mortality rate was 60 as compared with 49 during the previous year and 59 for England and Wales.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was :—

1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
59	80	61	78	45

There was no death.

DIPHTHERIA.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was :—

1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
49	41	34	14	92

There were 7 deaths but none of these occurred amongst immunised children.

An intensive propaganda campaign was pursued during the year to bring to the notice of parents the importance and necessity of having their children protected against Diphtheria. Arrangements were made for children to be immunised at the Infant Welfare Clinics, at the School Clinic, at the City Health Department and at Schools to suit the convenience of the parents.

The number of children fully immunised during 1941 was 6,496, out of these 1,057 were under 5 years and 5,439 were between 5 and 15 years of age.

There is still a large number of children between 1 and 15 years of age who should be protected against Diphtheria and I would like to urge the parents to have this carried out at their earliest convenience.

ERYSIPELAS.

Thirteen cases were notified as compared with 10 in 1940.
There was no death.

ENTERIC FEVER.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was :—

1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
2	1	1	3	—

There was no death.

DYSENTERY.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was :—

1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
1	—	4	11	6

There was no death.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was :—

1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
1	1	—	—	—

There was, however, one death.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was :—

1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
2	2	3	26	10

There was one death.

MALARIA.

No case of Malaria was notified during 1941.

ACUTE POLIO-MYELITIS AND ACUTE POLIO-ENCEPHALITIS.

17 cases were notified during 1941 as compared with 1 during 1940.

In-patient treatment was provided at the City Hospital and Sanatorium and the services of the orthopaedic surgeon were utilised in this connection. The after-treatment and supervision was carried out by the orthopaedic surgeon through the orthopaedic clinic.

There was one death.

PNEUMONIA.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was :—

1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
120	87	97	93	59

The deaths attributed to this cause numbered 30.

SMALLPOX.

No case of Smallpox was notified during 1941.

CHICKEN POX.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was :—

1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
208	482	265	138	384

There was no death.

MEASLES.

42 cases were notified in 1941 as compared with 718 cases in 1940.
1 death was certified as due to this cause.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

316 cases were notified during 1941 as compared with 40 in 1940.
6 deaths were reported from this cause.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**GERMAN MEASLES.**

4 cases were brought to the notice of the Health Department as against 887 in 1940.

MUMPS.

250 cases were reported in 1941 as against 46 in 1940.

INFLUENZA.

The deaths directly attributed to Influenza were 9 as compared with 36 in 1940.

CANCER.

There were 105 deaths from Cancer as compared with 98 in 1940.

The Joint Committee of the three County Councils and two County Boroughs of Lincolnshire continued to give consideration to the establishment of a Joint Scheme for Cancer and it was anticipated that one of the Hospital Centres under the scheme would be available for the reception of patients during 1942.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

The arrangements for the prevention of blindness were on similar lines as described in my report for 1938.

CARE OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

Arrangements were on similar lines as in previous years.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Tuberculosis Scheme was conducted on the same lines as described in my Report for 1938.

The number of primary notifications received during the last five years was :—

			1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Pulmonary	..	..	47	51	41	58	54
Non-Pulmonary	..	..	23	12	12	19	22
Total	..	..	<u>70</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>76</u>

The total number of deaths from Tuberculosis during the last five years was :—

		1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Pulmonary .. ..	..	30	27	28	50	32
Non-Pulmonary .. ..	..	12	8	11	10	9
Total .. ..	..	<u>42</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>41</u>

It is satisfactory to note that the number of notifications and deaths were less than in the previous year.

In connection with the work of the Tuberculosis Dispensary, 125 visits were paid by the medical staff and 3528 by the Tuberculosis Nurses to the homes of the patients and 449 X-ray examinations were carried out during 1941.

The number of patients on the Dispensary register on the 31st December, 1941, was 268 as compared with 257 in 1940.

The importance of early diagnosis and treatment of tuberculous patients continued to be emphasised during the year.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Venereal Diseases Scheme was on the same lines as described in my report for 1938. The number of cases dealt with for the first time during 1941 was 136, out of these 85 were Lincoln cases. The comparable figures for 1940 were 155 and 106 respectively.

It is of the utmost importance that the patients should seek treatment as early as possible, and should continue treatment until declared free of infection by the Medical Officers in Charge of the Clinics.

WATER.

The chlorination of the water supply was continued during the year and the results of bacteriological examination of samples of water were satisfactory.

The water supply remained satisfactory in quality and quantity.

SANITARY STAFF.

The work of the Sanitary Staff continued on the same lines as during 1940.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The total number of inspections and re-inspections made during the year was 7,537.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The inspection and supervision of food was fully maintained and special attention was given to cleanliness in the preparation and distribution of food for human consumption. In this connection, a circular letter was addressed to all trades or businesses concerned in the preparation and distribution of food for human consumption, asking for their co-operation in ensuring that every possible step was taken to prevent any possibility of the spread of disease by food contamination.

There were no cases of food poisoning during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS.

Particular attention was given to swimming baths during the year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

During 1941 all measures in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare were continued on the same lines as in previous years.

CHILD WELFARE.

During the year 2,092 children were seen at the Infant Welfare Clinics and out of these 649 were under 1 year of age. The Health Visitors paid 7,899 visits in respect of children under 5 years, out of these 2,687 visits were to children under 1 year of age.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

The number of persons who were receiving children for reward at the end of the year was 8 and the number of children under their care was 9.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

The Municipal Midwives attended 472 domiciliary cases as midwives and 123 as Maternity Nurses. Medical aid was summoned in 218 cases.

The previous Municipal Midwifery Scheme under which every patient who engaged a Municipal Midwife was required to engage a medical practitioner was cancelled and the new Scheme, after consultation with the medical practitioners, came into operation on the 1st August, 1941. Under the new arrangements the Municipal Midwives on booking a case will ask the patient to make a choice of medical practitioner from the list of selected medical practitioners to be called if an emergency arises. The medical practitioners will of course be free to book their private cases and if the services of the Municipal Midwives are utilised by the doctors the Midwife will act in the capacity of a Maternity Nurse.

The Municipal Midwifery Scheme continued to work satisfactorily during 1941.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL SERVICES.

The total number of ante-natal examinations carried out at the ante-natal clinic or by medical practitioners was 585 and the total number of post-natal examinations was 433 during the year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Six cases were notified during the year as against one during 1940. The vision was unimpaired in each case.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

The number of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified during the last five years was :—

1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
9	8	7	8	7

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There was one death in the City which was considered a maternal death, this gives the Maternal Mortality rate of 0.99 as compared with 4.2 for the previous year and 2.23 for England and Wales.

MATERNITY HOME.

The Children's Nursery, Macaulay Drive, continued to be used as the City Maternity Home during 1941, but efforts are still being made to provide an additional number of beds for maternity cases.

There were 192 women admitted to the Home during the year and medical aid was summoned in 109 cases.

WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

The organisation of the first War-Time Day Nursery was almost completed by the end of the year.

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, 1941.

	Birth rate per 1,000 population		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 population								Rate per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still-Births	All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales ..	14.2	.51	12.9	—	—	.03	—	.06	.07	.19	5.1	59
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London ..	14.7	.58	14.9	—	—	.03	—	.07	.08	.17	7.5	71
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000—50,000 at Census, 1931)	16.4	.60	13.0	—	—	.03	.01	.06	.06	.20	4.6	56
London ..	8.9	.33	16.3	.01	—	.02	—	.04	.03	.15	6.8	68
LINCOLN ..	14.6	.53	12.9	—	—	.01	—	.09	.10	.01	5.2	60

